

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 5, line 9, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Chest seal 54, whether a standalone unit as shown in Fig. 6 or as a portion of an integral chest and gate seal, comprises an elastomeric body member 55 having a knife gate slot 56 for receiving knife gate 16. Expandable sealing surfaces 58 of gate slot 56 have a convex geometry, such as a rounded geometry with a single continuous arc from the lower plane ~~57~~51a to the upper plane ~~59~~51b of the chest seal member as shown in Fig. 6. Other convex geometries may also be provided, however, including multiple arcs or ridges. Chest seal 54 has one or more inner channels 60 for receiving injectable packing, preferably one channel on each of the upstream and downstream sides 57 of the knife gate slot. The packing may be injected into the seal through seal injection ports 62 in the body halves 12 and 14 that are aligned with channels 60 when the valve is assembled. Plugs 64, typically bolts that mate with threads in the body halves, close seal injection ports 62 after the packing has been injected. As the plugs 64 are advanced into the injection ports, the injectable packing expands the expandable sealing surfaces 58 of the chest seal and causes expandable sealing surfaces 58 to make a tighter seal with the gate.